

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of this application and respectfully request the entry of the amendments indicated hereinabove. The Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claims 1-4, 6, 9, and 23. This Amendment is presented in order to prepare this application for appeal.

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 are pending. Of the pending claim set, Claims 11, 12, 14, 16-18, and 24 are rejected, Claims 13, 15, and 25 are objected to, and Claims 19-22 are withdrawn from consideration. There is no indication in the Office Action of the status of Claims 5, 7, and 8 except their listing as pending claims. Claim 7 is amended hereinabove and is supported in paragraphs 0022 and 0025 (and FIGS. 1b, 2, and 4) of the Specification.

Claim 11 positively recites a power switch having a control signal input. These advantageously claimed features are not taught or suggested by the publication of Yanagisawa et al.

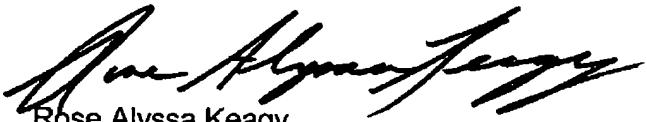
Yanagisawa et al. does not teach the advantageously claimed invention because Yanagisawa et al. teaches the use of address inputs (FIGS. 2, 4, and

16B, paragraph 0111), but not a control signal input as advantageously claimed. The Applicants submit that those with ordinary skill in the art know that SRAMs have a straightforward pin-out; namely, power, ground, some address pins, some data pins, and some control signal pins. The inputs to the NOR in Yanagisawa et al. are address inputs - as is common art for an address decode. Therefore, Yanagisawa et al. does not teach a power switch having a control signal input, as advantageously claimed. (The Applicants also submit that those with ordinary skill in the art know that bringing one of the inputs to a NOR gate high is not considered powering down the NOR gate. Moreover, there is a big difference between a power switch and a portion of a NAND gate or the NOR gate (FIG. 16B).)

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claim 11 and respectfully assert that Claim 11 is patentable over the patent granted to Yanagisawa et al. Furthermore, Claims 12-18 and 24-25 are allowable for depending on allowable independent Claim 11 and, in combination, including limitations not taught or described in the references of record.

For the reasons stated above, this application is believed to be in condition
for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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